

12m.
Turkish
Emp.

Amer. university of Be

TRANSLITERATION FROM ARABIC

While this system of transliteration is substantially what has been used for many years by the American University of Beirut, it embodies certain changes which have been introduced from time to time in order to obtain greater consistency and simplicity. Its chief aim is to enable one who knows Arabic to recognize Arabic words when they are written in Latin characters, and consequently to pronounce them correctly, Arabic spelling being perfectly phonetic. Those who do not know Arabic cannot attain an entirely correct pronunciation by the aid of any system of transliteration, though it is believed that they may be better served by this system than by some others.

The system as here given is intended mainly for isolated names of persons or places. If applied to the transliteration of an Arabic text, certain modifications would have to be introduced in order to express exactly the *waṣlah* and initial and final *hamsah*.

It is recognized that some spellings which do not accord with the system are so well established that it would be difficult or undesirable to change them, *e.g.*, Bethlehem, Damascus, Beirut. The last should be Bayrût, but is spelled Beirut in the charter of incorporation of the University.

Each of the following examples illustrates several points.

a	َ	(fatḥah) Baḥr	بَحْر, Nahr	نهر, Ramlah	رَمَلَه
ā	ا	(alif) Fāḍil	فَاضِل, Nāblus	نَابْلُس	

Final *alif* is written *a* (without circumflex), as : Ḥāṣbayya حَاصِبِيَّا

aw	و	(fatḥah waw) Fawzi	فَوْزِي, 'Awn	عَوْن	
ay	ي	(fatḥah ya') Ḥusayn	حُسَيْن, Shwayr	شَوَيْر	
b	ب	(ba') B'aqlīn	بِغْلَيْن, Bikfayya	بِكْفَيَّا	
d	د	(dāl) Dāghir	داغِر		
ḍ	ض	(ḍād) Ḍūmiṭ	ضُومِط, Fayyād	فَيَّاض	
dh	ذ	(dhāl) Dhīb	ذِيب, Majdhūb	مَجْذُوب, Munḍhir	مُنْذِر
f	ف	(fā') Fahīm	فَهِيم		
gh	غ	(ghayn) Ghuṣn	غُصْن, Sûḷ-ul-Gharb	سُوقُ الْغَرْب	
h	ه	(ha') Hammām	هَمَام		
ḥ	ح	(ḥa') Ḥasan	حَسَن, Ḥusayn	حُسَيْن, Maḥmūd	مَحْمُود
i	ِ	(kasrah) Shibli	شِبْلِي, Bishmizzīn	بِشْمِزِينَ	
î	ي	(kasrah ya') Khadijah	خَدِيجَه, Shâhîn	شَاهِينَ	

Final *ya'* is written *i* (without circumflex), as : Naṣri نَصْرِي

j	ج	(jīm) Jamīl	جَمِيل, Jamīlah	جَمِيلَه	
k	ك	(kāf) Kasrawān	كَسْرَوَان, Karam	كَرَم	
ḵ	ق	(ḵāf) Ḳayṣar	قَيْصَر, Biḵā'	بِقَاع	
kh	خ	(kha') Khalīl	خَلِيل		
l	ل	(lām) Labīb	لَبِيب		
m	م	(mīm) Muḥammad	مُحَمَّد		
n	ن	(nūn) Naṣr	نَصْر		
r	ر	(ra') Rashīd	رَشِيد		
s	س	(sīn) Sâmi	سَامِي, Sûriyya	سُورِيَّا	
ṣ	ص	(ṣād) Ṣâliḥ	صَالِح, Ṣayda	صَيْدَا	

sh	ش	(shîn)	Shams	شَمْس
t	ت	(ta')	Tîn	تَيْن
ṭ	ط	(ṭa')	Muṣṭafa	مُصْطَفَى
th	ث	(tha')	Thâbit	ثَابِت
u	و	(ḍammah)	al-Ḳuds	الْقُدْس
û	و	(ḍammah wau)	Rûḥi	رُوحِي
w	و	(waw, consonant)	Ward	وَرْد
y	ي	(ya', consonant)	Yûnis	يُونِس
z	ز	(zayn)	Zaynab	زَيْنَب
ẓ	ظ	(ẓa')	Naẓîrah	نَظِيرَه
'	ء	(hamzah)	Fâ'iz	فَائِز

Initial and final *hamsah* are not indicated, as : Amîn آمِينَ

Dimashk-ul-Fayḥa دِمَشْقُ الْفَيْحَا , Abu-Samra أَبُو سَمْرَةَ

‘ع (‘ayn) ‘Abdu عَبْدِ , Sa’d سَعْد , Sa’id سَعِيد , Wadi وَدِيع

• (shaddah) For *shaddah*, always double the consonant, as :

Muḥammad مُحَمَّد , Ḥaffâr حَفَّار , Ḥassûn حَسُون , Mudawwar مَدَوَّر

Sulṭâniyyah سُلْطَانِيَّة , Fayyûm فَيُّوم . Never double the conso-

nant unless there is a *shaddah*. Therefore write : Ḥasan حَسَن

and not Ḥassan ; Kafa كَفَّا and not Kaffa ; Laban لَبَن and not

Labban.

In words beginning with *shams* letters, the *lâm* of the preceding article is assimilated to the initial consonant of the word, as :

Zayn-ud-Dîn زَيْنُ الدِّين , ‘Abd-ur-Raḥîm عَبْدُ الرَّحِيم , ‘Ayn-us-Sulṭân

عَيْنُ السُّلْطَان ; but ‘Abd-ul-Masîḥ عَبْدُ الْمَسِيح , Nahr-ul-Kalb نَهْرُ الْكَلْب

Some compounds do not lend themselves to the form of the preceding examples and are better written as one word, e.g.,

‘Abdallah عَبْدُ اللَّهِ , Muḥyiddîn مُحْيِي الدِّين

